

Puget Sound TRT - Twentieth Meeting Notes

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

NMFS-NWFSC Seattle, WA

TRT Members Present Mary Ruckelshaus, Ken Currens, Bob Fuerstenberg, Bill Graeber, Kit Rawson, Norma Jean Sands, Jim Scott, Elizabeth Babcock.

TRT Members Absent: Jim Doyle.

Visitors Lloyd Moody, Glen Grette, Beth Sanderson, Paul McElhany, Robin Waples, Derek Poon, Tom Good, Paul Hage, Jim Myers, Juliet Fabbri

Population Viability Issues

Norma updated the TRT about chinook population viability analyses. The TRT discussed how to include Hood Canal summer chum information in the A&P tables. Norma also updated the TRT about the South Sound Pop ID meeting. She has the details on comments and who attended.

- Population viability criteria. Kit updated the TRT about sigma-squared analyses. The TRT discussed hatchery contributions, conducting sensitivity analyses without all the data, a generic ESU-wide sigma-squared, ways to get population-specific estimates, and looking over diagnostic rules before running Sim Salmon. **Kit Rawson** will run diagnostics and estimate sigma-squared for as many populations as are warranted by the data.
- Equilibrium abundance vs. escapement numbers and planning ranges. The abundance numbers provided by the TRT in planning ranges represent equilibrium abundance, as stated in the TRT write-up for the Shared Strategy retreat in September, 2001. How equilibrium abundance relates to Nmin (the minimum number of natural spawners a population can contain and still be considered viable) is currently being worked out by the TRT (see next item).
- Zones of population viability curves and the precautionary approach. Ken began the discussion on current vs. historical R:S vs. spawner curves, the implications of different regions on the curves in re: viability, and suggested precautionary approaches for each range. For different regions between the curves (i.e., "red, blue and yellow zones"), the TRT discussed how to identify landmarks defining intersection points (e.g., Nmin, QET, R:S=1, etc.) and how to express uncertainty in the estimated functional relationship between productivity and spawner number. **Jim Scott** will develop a set of criteria that must be met within different regions in defining viability and report back to the TRT at the December meeting for discussion.
- Estimates of Juvenile Productivity. No update. **Jim Scott** will get needed assistance from Kit and Norma at the Dec. 13-14 viability workgroup meeting and they will report results to the TRT meeting Dec. 18th.
- Schedule for chinook population viability analyses. **Kit Rawson** will update the TRT on the distribution of sigma-squareds for Puget Sound chinook at the next TRT meeting. Generic results from Sim Salmon for estimating Nmin and population viability criteria will be ready by the end of December.

ESU-Wide Issues

- Geographic Regions of Significance. Bob presented 2 approaches for identifying regions: geo-hydrologic units and landform-based. The TRT discussed where to draw the line in South Sound and the Nooksack area, and **Bob Fuerstenberg** agreed to document the rationale and information underlying definitions of the different regions more completely by the next TRT.
- Diversity. **Ken Currens** noted the maps from Bob will be useful and he will have all diversity information by the Dec. meeting so the TRT can make some decisions. [need to elaborate a bit...]

- Catastrophes. Tom Good and Juliet Fabbri presented their catastrophe project to the TRT. The project involves estimating catastrophic risk to salmon populations from diseases originating in hatcheries, seismic events, oil and chemical spills, and land use. **The TRT** will discuss what aspects of this project will be useful and what level of detail is needed.

Hatchery Issues and TRT Tasks

Ken began the TRT discussion on hatcheries. Who will be in the new work group? **Ken Currens, Jon Drake, Kip Killebrew, others?** 3 main areas were identified to be addressed by the new hatchery work group: (1) Masking effects of hatchery fish on ‘natural’ abundance and productivity? diversity and spatial structure? (2) Under what conditions do fish produced at a hatchery “count” when assessing abundance and productivity population criteria and at the ESU level? (3) What are the effects of hatchery fish on natural populations? Risks and benefits?

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Habitat Issues

- Estimating capacity of adults in the Skagit River. Lisa Holsinger presented the findings from her work in quantifying current and historic habitat and associated spawner ‘occupancy’ in the Skagit River system. The TRT identified juvenile capacity in the Skagit as a priority for **Lisa** to work on next.
- Habitat case studies. Beth Sanderson and Jeremy Davies updated the TRT on their coarse and fine scale habitat characterization project in Puget Sound. They are having trouble locating data, and **Beth Sanderson** will send a letter to the TRT with detailed data requests.
- Salmon funding in the Puget Sound Basin 1997-2001. Dennis Canty and Nick Pearson of Evergreen Funding Consultants presented the work they have been compiling on salmon funding in Puget Sound for the Shared Strategy. The TRT discussed monies spent on monitoring (where are they?) and monies spent on projects and whether there was advice they could offer to improve the usefulness of the existing analysis.
- Estuarine and nearshore – Approaches for assessing and prioritizing actions. Bill Graeber talked about the interdisciplinary Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) he is involved with and the TRT discussed how the project could contribute to TRT tasks. The **habitat group** will compare TRT and PSNERP work plans (with George Pess and Beth Sanderson) before the next TRT meeting. PSNERP technical team members will attend the TRT meeting in December for further discussion of this issue.

Next Priorities, Tasks, Funding

- Funding FY '02 Estimates for TRT expenditures for this year range from \$50,000-\$100,000, but the exact figure will not be known until mid-fiscal year. The TRT discussed funding priorities for this year. **Brian Collins and Dave Montgomery** will present their work proposal at the next TRT meeting (half-hour). Funding will be discussed at the next meeting: **each member** will discuss what they need assistance with and **Mary Ruckelshaus** will report on what in-kind resources are already available at the Center.

- TRT Tasks & Schedule Questions to think about re: the TRT and Shared Strategy work plan: (1) anything else to do? (2) is the TRT the appropriate group to complete these tasks? **The TRT** agreed to discuss this over email and then **Mary Ruckelshaus** and **Jim Kramer** will finalize the schedule before the December meeting. A half-day meeting was proposed for the TRT and Shared Strategy to discuss how they will work together and how to identify and complete all tasks.

Upcoming Important Dates

- Chinook Pop ID Meetings Nov. 28: North Sound, please email Mary if you plan on attending
Dec. 6: Hood Canal/Straits
- Thursday, Dec 6th 6-9PM Ozette Lake, open to the public, details to come on lodging
- Friday, Dec 7th Boat tour of Ozette lake and salmon habitat, please email Mary if you plan on attending
- Tuesday, Dec 18th Next TRT meeting
- Thursday-Friday Jan 3-4 RSRP meeting about Habitat and Questions about ESU-wide recovery. **Beth Sanderson** will send draft agenda by the end of November, your comments/suggestions are requested.
- 2002 TRT Meetings Save the 3rd Tuesday and Wednesday of every month, only February will be the 2nd Tuesday and Wednesday.